

Some OBSERVATIONS on EXTRACTS taken out of the Report from the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations.

1st Extract. **T**HE Number of *Negroes* yearly Imported into the *English* Plantations and Colonies, since the time of Passing the Act of Parliament by the private Traders, being (as they compute) about 25000.

2. That generally the Prices in the Plantations have been from 14 to *l.* 23 per Head.
3. 'Tis computed that the Number of *Negroes*, necessary for a yearly Supply of the Plantations, is

For <i>Virginia</i> and <i>Maryland</i> —————	4000
<i>Carolina</i> and <i>New-York</i> —————	1000
<i>Barbadoes</i> —————	4000
<i>Leeward-Islands</i> —————	4000
For the Use of <i>Jamaica</i> , and what are carried by Her } Majesty's Subjects to the <i>Spanish West-Indies</i> , }	12000
	25000

Which Number of 25000, the private Traders reckon have been Imported to those several Colonies.

4. 'Tis alledged by the Company, that the Natives on the Coast enjoy the whole Benefit of the Trade, taking advantage of different Traders to advance the Prices of *Negroes*, and their own Goods, and to depretiate our Merchandizes; and they add in discourse, that the Price of *Negroes* is now about Ten Pounds per Head in *Africa*, whereas formerly it was not above Three.

This the private Traders admit to be true in the manner as is before mention'd.

5. The Company say, they understand the best Establishment to be a Joint Stock, exclusive of all others: But in case that shall not be thought proper, they say they will be content to be limited in their Trade from *Cape-Blanco* to *Cape-Lopez*, if the private Traders be restrain'd from coming there.

To this the private Traders answer, That whatever Confusion may have happened in that Trade, they are to be imputed to the different Interests of the Company and private Traders. Therefore, for prevention of the like for the future, they propose that all Traders to *Africa* be set on an equal Foot, by laying open the Trade, like that to *Turkey*.

To set this in a more true Light, in order to give a right Judgment thereof, 'tis necessary to premise the following Particulars.

1st Partic. To know the Annual Exports of the private Traders, which are, as appears by their own Oaths and Entries in the Custom-house of *London*, *Bristol*, and other Out-Ports of *England* successively, for Six Years last past, viz.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From 29th September 1701, to 29th September 1702 ———	37875	18	6
29th September 1702, to 29th September 1703 ———	44115	12	3
29th September 1703, to 29th September 1704 ———	26527	07	11
29th September 1704, to 29th September 1705 ———	30651	07	6
29th September 1705, to 29th September 1706 ———	32144	19	6
29th September 1706, to 29th September 1707 ———	31986	16	8

The whole Six Years amounts to ——— *l.* 203302:02:4

Which in an Averidge is 33883 *l.* 13 *s.* 8 *d.* per Annum, their whole Exports from *Engl. a.*

2d Partic. That Fortifications and Settlements on the Coast, and an equal Strength with other *European* Nations, are absolutely necessary to be maintain'd, for Preservation of the *British* Interest, with the Natives.

That for preserving and increasing Trade to the said Settlements, it is also as necessary, that by Policy and Presents, Friendship be kept up betwixt Natives and Natives, and as many of them as possible brought into, and continued in the Interest of the Settlements, without which the Trade to them will be intercepted; and upon occasion of any Quarrel, those Friends must be supported against the Friends of other *Europeans*; and that the only way to have no interruption in Trade, is, to preserve the Balance of Power.

This Occasions sometimes a very great and uncertain Expence of Goods, Ammunition and Arms; and as the Settlements are numerous, and under divers Petty Kings, they are seldom free from Differences amongst one or more of their Neighbours, Friends to other *Europeans*; Also they are illiterate People, and have not (or are they govern'd by) any Religion, Laws or Courts of Justice, or any civiliz'd Rules of Discipline.

The best Foundation and Establishment of the Native's Friendship, Justice, Humanity and Honesty is their dependance on the Protection, Assistance and Benefit from the Forts and Settlements, which ceases when the Trade is supplied by different Interests, and the whole falls into Confusion and Disorder.

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(2)

That from the first Particular hereof consider'd, with the first, third and fourth Extracts of the Report, it will not be difficult to form this Conclusion.

1. That £. 33883 : 13 : 8 is the Cost of the private Traders annual Exports from *England*, out of which allow £. 4583 : 13 : 8: For some Ships that go for Red-wood and Elephants Teeth, and for others that possibly did make some small Returns in Gold. There will remain £. 29300 : 0 : 0 to purchase *Negroes*, and Provisions for them.

It is in the 4th Extract allow'd by them, the Prices of *Negroes* are advanc'd to Ten Pounds per Head; but because it may be alledged, in some Parts, they are bought at lower Prices; the Calculate is made at Six Pounds per Head, which is less than the Company pay for what they purchase. The Product of *Negroes* then purchased on the Coast for £. 29300 : 0 : 0, is 4883 *Negroes*; Out of which take off the Common Mortality, during the Time of Purchase, and Term of the Voyage, which in this time of open Trade, by delays, is seldom less than 15 per Cent. which is 732 *Negroes*, there will then remain Imported, by the private Traders, into the several Plantations and Colonies no more than 4151, which is 20849 *Negroes* less for each Year than the Computation they have given in to the Lords Commissioners for Trade, and as they fall short in the General Importation, so consequently in their Particular, to the several respective Colonies.

This Importation of theirs, so calculated, does also agree with the several Advices the Company have had from their Agents at *Jamaica*, *Barbadoes*, *Leeward-Islands* and *Virginia*, of the Number of *Negroes* from time to time arriv'd at the said Colonies.

N.B. Their design, no doubt, in this fallacious Computation, was prejudice to the Company and to gain Applause from the Lords Commissioners for Trade.

But how far such Delusions are justifiable, or with what evil Consequences they might be attended when given Credit to, especially in such an essential Part of the Trade of this Nation; is left to every Considerate Person to Judge.

Note, To import 25000 *Negroes*, they must purchase at least 30000, to allow only for Mortality; and suppose also, all their Ships arrive Safe.

Note also, That the 29300 Pounds, their real Exports, 'tis well known, will little more than purchase the Corn, and Necessary Provisions for that Number; and that the Cost of that Number of *Negroes* and Provisions together, would amount to upwards of 180000 pounds Sterling, first Cost of Goods exported from *England*, and bartered on that Coast for *Negroes*, which is their Method of Trading. Had these private Traders Exports amounted to this Sum, the Company would have received for Ten per Cent. 18000 £. Yearly; whereas 'tis Evident for this six Years last past, the Ten per Cent. paid for their whole Exports, for Purchase of *Negroes*, Wood, Teeth and Gold, have amounted to no more than £. 3388 : 7 : 4 : a Year, one with another.

It will be alledg'd, that in the above Computation they included the Imports of Ships fitted out, from the Plantations to *Africa*.

This will help them but little, when the following Particulars are Considered.

1. The Cargoes exported from the Plantations, as by the Returns of their Entries for Six Years last past, amount in an Averidge, one Year with another, only to about £. 3000 Pounds Sterl. per Annum.

2. And that the other Calculate is made, supposing all the Ships and Cargoes from *England* to arrive Safe, and be disposed of on the Coast, and all the Ships to arrive Safe in the Colonies, which is too well known, several do not, but fall into the Hands of the Enemies, and some perish by other Casualties; which may well be computed to amount to much more than the Produce of the Exports from the Plantations.

☞ So that hereby it is evident, their Computation is most Notoriously fallacious in the Degree, as this Calculate explains it.

The Second particular Considered, with the 5th Extract of the Report, will admit of the following Observations.

1. That the private Traders allow, that whatever Confusions have happened in the Trade, they are to be imputed to the different Interest of the Company, and they Trading at one and the same Places.

2. That the Company have propos'd their Remedy, by being limited in their Trade; and now particularly, from *Cape Blanco* to *Cape Formosa*.

3. That the private Traders propose a New Scheme of Trade, like that to *Turkey*; which the second Particular in some Measure explains the Difficulties of, and Hazards that attend it; and that there is no Parallel betwixt the Charge of Maintaining and Preserving of Forts and Settlements, Friendship and Trade on the Coast of *Africa*, and that of the fixt and secure Trade in *Turkey*, where they are under a Polite and Safe Government, stated Laws and Courts of Justices, and concerted Articles of Peace with *European Nations*.

As also it is Observable,

1. That it is the Practice of all other Nations, and that they find it impracticable to preserve the Trade and Fortifications under any other Method than Joint-Stocks.

2. That the Company having such a Limited part to themselves, and the rest open, being a much larger Extent than the Company's Proportion, and where are also plenty of *Negroes*, seems the most certain Method to answer all the good Ends and Purposes designed by

by this Trade, for the Honour and Benefit of *Great Britain*, and the Plantations and Colonies, in which each may endeavour to improve their part, and by Purchasing *Negroes* on moderate Terms, afford them so in the Colonies; and hereby the private Traders will be exonerated from that pretended heavy Burthen of Ten per Cent.

3. A Company with a Joint Stock, whose Property the Fortifications and Settlements are, having their Estates in the Magazines, are most likely to preserve them and the Trade, and very uncertain and hazardous to be done by Traders at Pleasure; or by any Duties that shall be laid on such uncertain Trade.

4. It may be Dangerous to the Nation and Plantations, to Try an Experiment which no Nation else do Practice; and which may be attended with fatal Consequences.

5. That a Joint Stock is National in its Constitution, much exceeding that of a few designing Persons, who hope by the specious Pretence of an open Trade to ingross the same.

6. It is an Easy thing to unsettle and destroy a Trade, not without great Labour, Danger and Expence acquired, but it will be difficult to regain it, once lost; especially this of *Guinea*, which all our Neighbouring Nations thirst to gain from us.

An Observation is likewise Necessary upon the second Extract, concerning the pretended Prices they Sell their *Negroes* for in the Plantations, and at the Prices mentioned; it will not be difficult to show the Yearly great Loss to amount to near half their Exports, having regard to the Common Mortality and Hazard, and Charges in Exporting *Negroes*, and Loss by Returns from the Colonies, and Allowance for the time for Reimbursement in *England*. But if that Suggestion be also Fallacious, and that the Prices of *Negroes* be near double that Price in the Plantations; especially in *Barbadoes*, and the *Leeward Islands*, as most Merchants do allow, then the Hardship lies upon the Planters, and is a great Discouragement to the Plantation Trade, and is the Occasion of Sugars coming so dear to *England*, as to Incourage our Neighbours, to import them in greater Quantities from the *East-Indies*, which may in time prove Fatal to all the *British* Sugar Colonies.

Note also, these Private Traders make loud Acclamations of the great Improvements they have made in the Exports of the Woollen and other Manufactures over and above what the Company have done, when they had the Trade intire in themselves.

To confute this, and show it of the same Piece with their foregoing Assertions,

Note, the Private Traders have exported as before recited, *£* 33883:13:8: Annually for the Six Years past in an Averidge.

The Company, before the Interlopers and private Traders interrupted them, exported for many years successively in an Averidge, upwards of *£* 70000 *p. Ann.* in Woollen Goods, and other Manufactures and Merchandizes as *per* an account, that they have drawn out of their Trade of Nine Years together, and then purchased *Negroes* at moderate Rates, and sold them so in the Colonies, and imported large Quantities of Gold and other Goods to *England*, and at that time Paid near double the Price the private Traders now pay for all Woollen Goods they exported; and it will always happen when Goods are not sold for Profit in Foreign Markets, the Price must consequently fall at home.

Wherefore it is humbly hoped the Parliament will give them such Relief as they may be encouraged to Support, and prosecute the Trade to the good of this Nation and the Colonies, and Preservation and Improvement of their Property and Estate; all which have been very much impaired by very great Losses during the late and this present War, and by extraordinary Charges, and the Confusion and Disorder in Trade, occasioned by the Private Traders, and their contending Interests on the Coast of *Africa*.

An Account of the Company's Fortifications and Settlements on the Coast.

Upon the establishing this Company, it was agreed with the preceding Company for the Settlements they had on the Coast upon Surrender of their Charter, to pay them *£* 34000 which was accordingly performed. The Settlements they were posselt of were *Gambia-Fort* and too Factories, *viz.* *Serraleon* and *Sherbrow* let out to Lease, *Cape-Coast-Castle* and four Factories on the *Gold-Coast*; since which, the Company have been at the following Charge of rebuilding them, and building many others, *viz.*

James Fort rebuilt and enlarged on *James-Island*.

Serraleon-Fort Built on *Bence-Island*.

Sherbrow-Fort Built on *York-Island*.

Dickies Cove-Fort Built.

Succondee-Fort Built.

Commenda-Fort Built.

Cabo-Corso-Castle Rebuilt, and much better Fortified.

Fort-Royal bought of the *Danes* for *£* 4000.

Queen Ann's Point-Fort Built.

Annisban, a Factory.

Annamaboo-Fort Built.

Agga, a Factory.

Shidoe, a Factory.

Winnebah-Fort Built.

Accra-Fort Built.

Whidah-Fort Built.

The first Cost of Building and Storing of so many Fortifications with Great Guns, Small Arms and Ammunition, and Artificers, Stores and Necessaries, with Interest of the Money since disburst, on a moderate Calculate, will amount to several hundred thousand Pounds Sterling.

Note, it is most plain and evident, that the *English* Interest and Trade on the Coast has hitherto been preserved by great Charge, Care and Difficulty; And by the Support of very great Sums of Money, frequently paid in by the Adventurers upon their Stock, and Money lent on Credit by them and other Persons to the Company, and not (as the private Traders most frivolously and unjustly suggest) by the great Advantage of the Ten *per Cent.* on their Exports, the *£* 3388. 7: 4: *per Ann.* which is but little more than sufficient to pay the Charge and Support of one single Fortification.

And it is hoped, that from these and the like Considerations it appears, that the Private Traders to *Africa* have been, and are a very great Burthen upon the Company, a Molestation to the Government on the Coast, a Prejudice to that of the Trade of the Nation, and to the Plantations and Colonies; and that without some immediate Relief, the whole is in Danger of being totally lost.

The Fallacies of Private Traders to *Africa* discover'd, and the Mischiefs they Occasion demonstrat'd: And an Account of the Settlements on that Coast purchased, built, and now possess'd, by the Company.

